



For details, art or photos about FLICKERS media releases, contact Shawn Quirk, [quirk@film-festival.org](mailto:quirk@film-festival.org)

#### PHOTOGRAPHS AVAILABLE:

## The 2016 Roving Eye International Film Festival Announces Best Film Awards

11<sup>th</sup> Annual Event welcomed world premieres & attending filmmakers

**BRISTOL, RI** • Awards for the top films screened at the **11<sup>th</sup> Annual Roving Eye International Film Festival** have been announced.

The **Festival** created by the Flickers' Rhode Island International Film Festival (RIFF) in partnership with Roger Williams University kicked off April 10<sup>th</sup> and ran through the 17<sup>th</sup>. This year's programming featured over 80 films from across the world, numerous World and US Premieres; panel discussions/symposia; visiting filmmakers; workshops; student film and arts showcases on the RWU campus.

The **Roving Eye International Film Festival** is a portal of discovery for film, arts and culture lovers across the region. The Festival's annual **Soforenko Foundation Film/Speaker Series On The Jewish Experience** showcased documentaries and short films never before shown in the U.S. Guest speakers included **Brian Mayer**, Cantor at Temple Beth Emmanu-El; and **Andrew Lund**, director/producer/educator.

Throughout the Festival, a series of panel discussions and presentations took place. This year's guest panelists included such industry leaders as **Eric Latek**: writer, director, motion graphics artist; **Duncan Putney**, actor, and award winning screenwriter; **Chris Sparling**, award-winning writer/director; **Tom DeNucci**, writer/director/actor; **Fr. Kenneth Gumbert, O.P.**, filmmaker/educator/painter/sculptor; **Alice Cross**, writer/lecturer; **Rev. Nancy Soukup**, RWU Multifaith Chaplain; and **Shawn Quirk**, RIFF Program Director

Students at the University, with the guidance of Flickers' Rhode Island International Film Festival, created the Roving Eye International Film Festival through the Film Minor senior-level course, *Curation and Film Festival Production*. Flickers' Executive Director and RWU Professor, **George T. Marshall** teaches the class. This year, 22 students spent the first part of the spring semester reviewing more than 500 films provided by Flickers and from there went on to create the entire Roving Eye Festival. The students developed active marketing and PR strategies, including the planning for events plus staffing throughout the week. **Roberta E. Adams, Ph.D.**, Associate Dean for Academic Affairs, is the Festival Chair, linking faculty adjudicators with students, RIFF and the RWU administration in a unique collaboration.

## THE 2016 AWARD WINNERS:

**BEST DIRECTOR: Eve Symington**, Director, **TETHER** 18 min. Guatemala, 2015

In a remote Mayan village, a tenacious young girl's dream of education is in peril when an unwanted pregnancy endangers her sister's life.

### **BEST SHORT DOCUMENTARY:**

**THE MANY SAD FATES OF MR. TOLEDANO** | Joshua Seftel, Director | 25 min. USA, 2015

Photographer Phil Toledano has become obsessed with his future. Using DNA tests, fortune tellers, and a prosthetic makeup artist, he begins photographing the many dark possibilities that might await him -- despite his wife's pleas to abandon the project. Over three years, Toledano's obsession alters him and his family forever.

**A CHANCE TO DRESS** | Alice Bouvrie, Director | 39 min. 2015, USA, 2015

Dr. John Southard, a world renown and respected geologist and professor at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology, MIT, is an open cross dresser. The film explores the various dimensions of identity and the diversity of gender expression.

### **BEST DOCUMENTARY:**

**MIRIAM BEERMAN: EXPRESSING THE CHAOS** | Jonathan Gruber, Director | 53 min. USA, 2015

Miriam Beerman was born in Providence, Rhode Island in 1923 with a visual gift for the world around her. She quickly knew that painting would be her life. A recipient of two Fulbright fellowships, among numerous other honors, she had the first-ever solo female show at the Brooklyn Museum in 1971. Yet even in the art world she was challenged as a woman in another male-dominated profession.

**GOODBYE THERESIENSTADT** | Carl Otto Dethlefsen and Jonatan Jerichow, Directors | 58 min. Czech Republic, Denmark, France, Israel, 2015

Over 7,000 Jews escaped from Denmark to Sweden when the occupying Germans tried to round up Danish Jews in October 1943. Yet regrettably, 470 Jewish men, women and children were captured and put into cattle cars bound for the Theresienstadt concentration camp.

Seventy years after they were miraculously rescued from Theresienstadt, six Danish Jews who were children at the time return to the concentration camp where they suffered for a year and a half, consumed by hunger, anxiety and fear of what tomorrow might bring.

### **BEST FOREIGN SHORT FILM: "French Touch,"** Directed by

**FRENCH TOUCH** | Cheng Xiao-Xing, Director | 22 min. France, 2015

The Chinese dream Florent, a young French graduate turn into nightmare. He is desperate to survive in the Far East. He crosses paths with Tang, a beautiful Chinese woman returned from France, which will make him an offer.

### **BEST U.S. SHORT FILM:**

**DAY ONE** | Henry Hughes, Director | 25 min. USA, 2015

On her first day in Afghanistan, an interpreter for the US Army is forced to deliver the child of an enemy bomb-maker.

### **BEST NARRATIVE SHORT FILM:**

**BEFORE THE BOMB** | Tannaz Hazemi, Director | 23 min. USA, 2015

10 year-old Elsa takes matters into her own hands when Child Services plans a visit that could separate her from her 5 year old brother.

### **BEST JEWISH SHORT FILM:**

**SUPERMAN ISN'T JEWISH (...AND I AM, A BIT)** | Jimmy Bemon, Director | 30 min. France, 2014  
When he finds out that it's because he's Jewish that his willy is different, young Benjamin decides to do everything he can to hide his religion and keep his secret...

**BEST FEATURE FILM:**

**THE VALLEY BELOW** | Kyle Thomas, Director | 87 min. Canada, 2014 UNITED STATES PREMIERE  
The Valley Below is a multi-narrative drama that chronicles the life of a small town in the badlands of Alberta over the course of one year.

Tied with:

**FRIENDS AND ROMANS** | Christopher Kublan, Director | 88 min. USA, 2015

Screenplay: Michael Rispoli, Christopher Kublan, Gregg Greenberg

Cast: Michael Rispoli, Annabella Sciorra, Paul Ben-Victor and Tony Sirico

A group of lifelong mob movie extras mount a production of Shakespeare's Julius Caesar in their local Staten Island theater in order to finally get some speaking roles. But the theater is the secret hideout of a real-life gangster who fancies himself an actor, and whom the FBI are hunting for the recent murder of a Broadway producer.

To see a listing of this year's programming and to learn more about the Roving Eye Festival, go to: <http://www.film-festival.org/RovingEye.php>

**ABOUT FLICKERS' RHODE ISLAND INTERNATIONAL FILM FESTIVAL:**

The **Flickers' Rhode Island International Film Festival** (RIIFF), has secured its place in the global community as the portal for the best in international independent cinema, earning the respect of domestic and foreign filmmakers, filmgoers and trend watchers. Ranked as one of the top 10 Festivals in the United States, RIIFF is a qualifying festival for the Short Narrative, Documentary Short Film and Animation Short Academy Awards through its affiliation with the Academy of Motion Picture Arts & Sciences and the British Academy of Film and Television Arts (BAFTA). There are only 6 film festivals worldwide that share this distinction and RIIFF is the only festival in New England. The Festival takes place every August.

For more information about the **Flickers' Rhode Island International Film Festival**, running Aug. 9-14, 2016 at the Providence Performing Arts Center (PPAC) and The Vets (formerly Veterans Memorial Auditorium), please visit [www.RIFilmFest.org](http://www.RIFilmFest.org) or call **401.861.4445**.

###